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## Gould Electronics Acquires JJA; Now Manufacturing and Marketing Copper Aluminum Copper Worldwide

EASTLAKE, Ohio, Jan. 6 /PRNewswire/ -- Gould Electronics Inc. today announced that it has acquired Johnson & Johnston Associates, Inc. (JJA), a manufacturer of Copper Aluminum Copper (CAC(R)) laminate and other products for the printed circuit board industry.

Since 1993, Gould has manufactured and marketed CAC laminate under an exclusive license from JJA for printed circuit board manufacturing outside of North America and worldwide for laminating applications. JJA retained its rights to the North American printed circuit board manufacturing market. The company employs 130 people, primarily at its headquarters and manufacturing facility at Hampstead, NH.

CAC laminate is a trademarked, patented product consisting of an aluminum separator plate and copper foil where the shiny side of the copper foil is attached or sealed to the aluminum separator sheet around the perimeter. One or two sheets of copper may be attached to one or both sides of the aluminum. This premium product, assembled in a certified clean room, is used primarily on glass-reinforced printed circuit boards for higher-end applications in computers, communications and industrial controls.

"Demand for CAC is steadily growing as printed circuit board manufacturers recognize its inherent cost-saving advantages through yield improvement, reduced labor expense and elimination of several manufacturing steps," said C. David Ferguson, chairman and chief executive officer of Gould and the executive in charge of Japan Energy Corporation's worldwide printed circuit board materials businesses.

"Our acquisition of JJA is part of a worldwide expansion of CAC laminate capacity within Japan Energy and Gould," Ferguson said. "We began production in November 1999 at a new CAC laminate facility in Ichinoseki, Japan, and we are doubling capacity at the Gould facility in Eichstetten, Germany this year. We are also considering expanding the Gould CAC facility in Mentor, Ohio," he said.

"The acquisition also fits with the combination of Japan Energy's worldwide electronic materials businesses last October to better align those businesses with the needs of printed circuit board manufacturers," he said. In addition to CAC laminate, products for the PCB industry include copper foil and adhesiveless flexible laminates.

Ferguson said that all JJA employees, including senior officers, have been asked to continue in their positions. He said that CAC laminate initially will continue to be marketed in North America under the JJA name.

Headquartered in Eastlake, OH, Gould Electronics Inc. is a worldwide leader in the production of printed circuit materials and optoelectronic products, including fiber optic components and assemblies. The company is a subsidiary of Japan Energy Corporation, headquartered in Tokyo, which had sales of approximately \$17 billion (U.S.) for its fiscal year ended March 31, 1999. Japan Energy is one of Japan's leading integrated suppliers of energy. Its petroleum operations encompass exploration, development, refining and marketing. The company is also a leading international supplier of sophisticated metal products for advanced sectors of the electronics industry.

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